

## EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

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Assembly  
California Legislature  
**JOHN LAIRD**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, TWENTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT



**STATE CAPITOL**  
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SACRAMENTO, CA 94249-0027  
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**DISTRICT OFFICES**  
**SANTA CRUZ COUNTY**  
701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 318B  
SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
PHONE: (831) 425-1503  
FAX: (831) 425-2570  
**MONTEREY AND SANTA CLARA COUNTIES**  
99 PACIFIC STREET, SUITE 555-D  
MONTEREY, CA 93940  
PHONE: (831) 649-2832  
FAX: (831) 649-2935

January 8, 2004

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I am writing to urge your support for the \$1,160,000 funding request submitted to the State Coastal Conservancy for the Buena Vista project in Santa Cruz County.

Once acquired, the Buena Vista property will be conveyed to California's Department of Fish and Game. Buena Vista will be managed as open space in perpetuity, thus maintaining its integrity as a subsection of the important and biologically rich Watsonville slough watershed. Acquisition of the property is also extremely important for the protection of the existing Santa Cruz long-toed salamander population and would be a positive step toward its recovery.

Buena Vista is the last undeveloped and unfarmed area of oak forest and maritime chaparral west of Highway One in Santa Cruz County. The 289-acre property is covered by San Andreas live oak woodland, marine chaparral, and coastal scrub and includes sloping terraces to the west and several north-south ridges and valleys, ranging from 190 to 470 feet in elevation. The millions of visitors to the Central Coast that travel along Highway One annually north towards Santa Cruz or south towards Monterey or Carmel enjoy the rich mosaic of coastal woodlands supported on this rich parcel.

A Coastal Conservancy grant will help to leverage additional public and private funding sources while financing the purchase of this significant property.

I urge you to support this important coastal project.

Sincerely,

JOHN LAIRD  
Assemblymember, 27<sup>th</sup> District

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JAN 20 2004

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

<http://www.assembly.ca.gov/demweb/members/a27/>

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## EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support



# County of Santa Cruz

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January 2, 2004

Paul Morabito, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: BUENA VISTA PROPERTY IN SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I am a Santa Cruz County Supervisor and am writing to offer support for the Department of Fish and Game's acquisition of the 289-acre Buena Vista property in Santa Cruz County. A grant from the State Coastal Conservancy will secure the final funding needed to purchase this property.

Development pressure in the Santa Cruz area has increased dramatically over the last ten years. The property, currently owned by a group of investors, had previously been proposed for development into a golf course and currently into a luxury residential subdivision. The Trust for Public Land has secured an option to purchase the property and place it in public trust. The grading and other earthmoving activities associated with potential development on the property would severely decay the important natural resources found on the property, making preservation of the property all the more critical.

This 289-acre property, located between the City of Watsonville and the Aptos area in Santa Cruz County, contains excellent habitat for numerous rare and endangered plant species, including the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander, tiger salamander, robust spineflower and Hooker's manzanita. The property also includes lush woodlands of coastal live oak and maritime chaparral, which are identified by Santa Cruz County as "habitats of special concern." In addition, a small pond located in the southwestern portion of the property supports critical breeding habitat for the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander, a federally endangered species. In the Recovery Plan for the long-toed salamander, protection of this pond is designated as critical to the recovery of this species.

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January 2, 2004

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Due to the soil geology and undisturbed habitat, the property is an important site for groundwater recharge. This is particularly important for the City of Watsonville, which gets all of its fresh water supplies from the groundwater aquifer, an aquifer that currently suffers from saltwater intrusion.

Preservation of this property will also protect spectacular scenery along the highly traveled route State Highway 1 which borders the property for three-quarters of a mile. There is a vista point exit off Highway 1 which overlooks this property and affords an ocean view. Protection of this property will forever secure this vista.

I hope you will support this critical project and approve the allocated funding for the Buena Vista acquisition.

Sincerely,



MARDI WORMHOUDT, Supervisor  
Third District

MW:ted

cc: Karen Frankel, Trust for Public Land

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OAKLAND, CALIF.



## EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support



### United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
San Francisco Bay National Wildlife Refuge Complex  
Post Office Box 524  
Newark, California 94560  
(510) 792-0222

January 6, 2004

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I am writing to express the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's support for the Department of Fish and Game's acquisition of the 289-acre Buena Vista property in Santa Cruz county. A grant from the State Coastal Conservancy will secure the final funding needed to purchase this property.

Development pressure in the Santa Cruz area has increased dramatically over the last ten years. The property, currently owned by a group of investors, had previously been proposed for development into a golf course and currently into a luxury residential subdivision. The Trust for Public Land has secured an option to purchase the property and place it in public trust. The grading and other earth-moving activities associated with potential development on the property would severely decay the important natural resources found on the property, making preservation of the property all the more critical.

This 289-acre property, located between the towns of Watsonville and Aptos in Santa Cruz County, contains excellent habitat for numerous rare and endangered species. In particular, Buena Vista provides both breeding and non-breeding habitat for the endangered Santa Cruz long-toed salamander. Acquisition of this property would maintain existing habitat connectivity for the salamander and would meet two of the goals in the Draft Revised Recovery Plan, to protect breeding habitat and upland habitat. In addition, acquisition of this site would benefit other rare species including the endangered robust spineflower and the candidate California tiger salamander. Buena Vista supports one of only six known populations of the robust spineflower, and 135 acres of the property are included in the designated critical habitat (50 CFR 17 36822-36845). Other rare plants on the site include Hooker's manzanita, Kellogg's horkelia, and California bottlebrush grass. The property also includes lush woodlands of coastal live oak and maritime chaparral, which are identified by Santa Cruz County as "habitats of special concern."

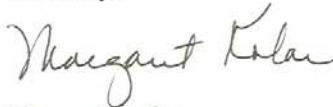
Due to the soil geology and undisturbed habitat, the property is an important site for groundwater recharge. This is particularly important for the City of Watsonville which gets all of its fresh water supplies from groundwater and the ongoing issue with salt water intrusion.

#### EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support

Preservation of this property will also protect spectacular scenery along the highly traveled route State Highway 1 which borders the property for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. There is a vista point exit off Highway 1 which overlooks this property and affords an ocean view. Protection of this property will forever secure this vista.

We hope you will support this critical project and approve the allocated funding for the Buena Vista acquisition.

Sincerely,



Margaret Kolar  
Refuge Complex Manager

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JAN 07 2004

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.

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## COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

### PLANNING DEPARTMENT

701 OCEAN STREET, SUITE 400, SANTA CRUZ, CA 95060  
(831) 454-2580 FAX: (831) 454-2131 TDD: (831) 454-2123  
TOM BURNS, PLANNING DIRECTOR

January 7, 2004

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

RE: Acquisition of the Buena Vista Property in Santa Cruz County

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Cruz County Planning Department to offer support for the State Coastal Conservancy granting of funds to complete the acquisition of 289 acres of land referred to as the "Buena Vista Property", located south of Aptos, within the Watsonville Slough watershed, in Santa Cruz County.

Most noted for its highly visible and scenic viewshed from Highway 1, this property also represents the last undeveloped area of oak forest and maritime chaparral west of Highway 1 in Santa Cruz County. Located on the property is a critical breeding pond for the federally and state listed, endangered Santa Cruz long toed salamander and the federal (threatened) and state (special species of concern) listed California red-legged frog. It is also excellent habitat for several rare and endangered plant species such as the Robust spineflower and Hooker's manzanita.

Acquisition of the Buena Vista Property represents a cooperative project with the Wildlife Conservation Board, the State Coastal Conservancy, Trust for Public Land, the California Department of Transportation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the U.S. National Park Service and is consistent with the Sensitive Habitat Protection ordinance developed by Santa Cruz County and the General and Local Coastal Plan. Furthermore, the Santa Cruz County General and Local Coastal Plan calls for the protection of scenic viewsheds from all publicly used roads, and recognize ocean views, agricultural fields, wooded forests, open meadows, and mountain hillside views as visual resources worthy of protection.

In conclusion, the Santa Cruz County Planning Department requests your support for this critical project and approval of the allocation of funds for the Buena Vista acquisition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Burns".

Tom Burns  
Planning Director

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JAN 13 2004

COASTAL CONSERVANCY  
OAKLAND, CALIF.



## EXHIBIT 4: Letters of Support



# The Open Space Alliance, Inc.

P.O. Box 8042  
Santa Cruz, CA 95061  
Phone and Fax (831) 423-0700  
Email: [osa@santacruzosa.org](mailto:osa@santacruzosa.org)  
[www.santacruzosa.org](http://www.santacruzosa.org)

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Jon Libby

Mr. Paul Morabito, Chair  
State Coastal Conservancy  
1330 Broadway, 11<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Oakland, CA 94612-2530

January 9, 2004

Dear Mr. Morabito:

I am writing on behalf of the Open Space Alliance of Santa Cruz County regarding the Department of Fish and Game's acquisition of the 289-acre Buena Vista property in Santa Cruz county. A grant from the State Coastal Conservancy will secure the final funding needed to purchase this property.

Development pressure in the Santa Cruz area has increased dramatically over the last ten years. The property, currently owned by a group of investors, had previously been proposed for development into a golf course and currently into a luxury residential subdivision. The Trust for Public Land has secured an option to purchase the property and place it in public trust. The grading and other earth-moving activities associated with potential development on the property would severely decay the important natural resources found on the property, making preservation of the property all the more critical.

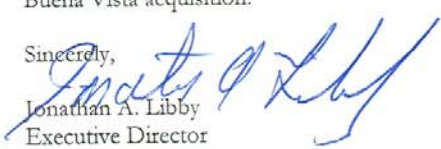
This 289-acre property, located between the towns of Watsonville and Aptos in Santa Cruz County, contains excellent habitat for numerous rare and endangered plant species, including the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander, tiger salamander, robust spineflower and Hooker's manzanita. The property also includes lush woodlands of coastal live oak and maritime chaparral, which are identified by Santa Cruz County as "habitats of special concern." In addition, a small pond located in the southwestern portion of the property supports critical breeding habitat for the Santa Cruz long-toed salamander, a federally endangered species. In its Recovery Plan, protection of this pond is designated as critical to the recovery of this species.

*Due to the soil geology and undisturbed habitat, the property is an important site for groundwater recharge. This is particularly important for the City of Watsonville which gets all of its fresh water supplies from groundwater and the ongoing issue with salt water intrusion.*

Preservation of this property will also protect spectacular scenery along the highly traveled route State Highway 1 which borders the property for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. There is a vista point exit off Highway 1 which overlooks this property and affords an ocean view. Protection of this property will forever secure this vista.

We hope you will support this critical project and approve the allocated funding for the Buena Vista acquisition.

Sincerely,

  
Jonathan A. Libby  
Executive Director

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OAKLAND, CALIF

